



**Watershed Stewards Project**

**Lower Trinity Handbook**

Service Year 18 – 2011/12

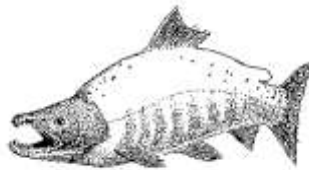
# **USFS Lower Trinity Site Handbook**





## **Watershed Stewards Project Mission**

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices.



*Sockeye Salmon*



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## Introduction

### Site Description

*Location*            580 Highway 96, Willow Creek, 95573

*Agency  
Affiliation*        Lower Trinity Ranger District, US Forest Service

*General  
Ecology*            Scenic mountains and salmon-filled rivers. Great swimming holes, fishing, trails and boating opportunities. Remote, but still close to Weaverville and Eureka/Arcata. Within a couple hours from the Trinity Alps and Marble Mountain Wilderness.



## General Calendar of Duties at Lower Trinity

<i>Month</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Site Duties</i>	<i>Work Load</i>	<i>Typical Work Hours</i>
<b>Fall</b>				
September				
October	LT, Orleans Office/Field	Start Spawning Ground Surveys, finish prep. and planning. Orientation to site, safety and expectations review	med - high	4 days a week, 10 hours a day Flex to 5 days/ 8 hrs if needed to accommodate new members.
November	LT, Orleans Office/Field	Spawning Ground Surveys, data management	high	4 days a week, 10 hours a day
<b>Winter</b>				
December	LT, Orleans Office Field	Spawning Ground Surveys, data management	high	4 days a week, 10 hours a day
January	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	Spawning Ground Surveys, data management, Steelhead and coho surveys if possible, prep for classroom/ start classroom.	Med - high	5 days a week, 8 hours a day
February	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	Downstream Migrant Trapping (DSMT) prep. And planning. Finish data management for spawning ground surveys, classroom.	Med - high	5 days a week, 8 hours a day
<b>Spring</b>				
March	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	DSMT prep and possible trap placement, classroom	Med - high	5 days a week, 8 hours a day
April	LT, Orleans Office/Field/ Classroom	DSMT, Classroom, data management, Bigfoot Birding days (2 days)	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
May	LT, Orleans Office/Field	DSMT, data management, Fire safe days (1 day)	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
<b>Summer</b>				
June	LT, Orleans Office/Field	DSMT, data management. Start juvenile coho surveys. Launch temperature loggers. Fish fair (1 day). Fish derby (1 day). Habitat surveys?	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
July	LT, Orleans Office/Field	Finish DSMT, data management. Coho juvenile dives, spring Chinook dives, summer steelhead dives, coastal cutthroat dive (Smith River). Habitat surveys?	high	7 days a week, 8 hours a day Flex schedule
August	LT, Orleans Field	Wooley Creek dives, high lake surveys. End of season wrap-up.	high	4 days a week, 10 hours a day



## **Description of Site Duties**

The Lower Trinity fisheries department is in the process of re-building after a five year lapse. This site will keep you busy with an emphasis on community outreach, education and field work.

The Real Science curriculum is an important outreach tool for local schools. The curriculum is created by the members and is a great way to provide high quality and hands on education opportunities for Trinity River kids. The Fish Fair is in its tenth year and members with help plan and coordinate with Orleans WSP members and the Fish Fair committee. This is an environmental and educational event for over 1000 students across 5 schools in the Klamath-Trinity district. The Skycrest Lake Youth Fish Derby and Firewise Days are a great opportunity for public outreach and members can be creative in an educational and fun booth to teach kids about fish. Additional community events are available to participate in including FireSafe Days and Bigfoot Birding Days.

The fall is comprised of walking creeks for Chinook, coho and steelhead spawning ground redd surveys. After the holidays and spawning ground surveys are completed, depending on water levels, the winter brings data entry, QA/QC, Real Science preparation, and beginning to teach in the classroom. The spring and early summer focuses on counting and measuring juvenile salmon in the downstream migrant traps (possibly in Orleans or starting a limited trapping season at Lower Trinity). Summer time is comprised of snorkel surveys for juvenile and adult salmon and stream habitat surveys.



## ISPs and Outreach Events

### ISP Information

Most ISPs take place in late summer when the field season slows down. The actual events can be varied. They range from pulling noxious weeds, improving local trails and trash clean-up. Keep yourself aware of what is going on in other departments at the Forest Service (like the Recreation department). There are plenty of opportunities to take on some responsibilities with something they're already working on and make it your ISP.

### Community Events

### Dates/Event Contact Information

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • <i>Big Foot Birding Days</i>     | • 530-627-3262 April      |
| • <i>Fish Fair</i>                 | • 530-625-2318 x2318 June |
| • <i>Fish Derby (Willow Creek)</i> | • 530-629-3438 June       |
| • <i>Fire Safe Days</i>            | • 530-629-3438 May        |
| • <i>Smith River Dives</i>         | • End of July             |
| • <i>Salmon River Dives</i>        | • July/August             |

### Calendar of Outreach Events for Site / Community (Optional)



## **Education**

### **Education Notes**

The goal is to cover as many schools on the Trinity River as possible. For this year they would only include schools West of Junction City. Trinity Valley would be the main focus of education in the classroom with fewer visits and less classrooms at the other schools.

### **Site / Region Specific Education Resources**

When you go to each school to get teachers to sign up for Real Science, it is a good idea to ask each of them what topics they want to be addressed in their class. It is unknown if Burnt Ranch School has had Real Science in the past and Big Bar elementary may only want an after school program. Trinity Valley has had Real Science presence from the Orleans members, but will be covered by the Lower Trinity this year.





## Local Ecology

### Descriptions of Local Ecology

<i>Mountains</i>	The landscape is composed of striking, steep mountains covered in various species of conifers and hardwoods.
<i>Rivers</i>	Highway 299, one of the main highways here, run along the incredibly scenic Trinity River, which is also the source of plenty of political controversy and strongly held beliefs involving the Central Valley Project Dams (Trinity Dam and Lewiston Dam). Highway 96, the other main highway, runs along the Trinity and Klamath. The housing is located at the Salyer Forest Service on the Trinity River. There is a local swimming hole below the bridge and steelhead fishing in the fall.
<i>Trails</i>	Great backpacking and hiking trails in the surrounding area. Marble Mountain Wilderness, Trinity Alps Wilderness and Redwood National and State Parks on the coast.
<i>Wildflowers</i>	You'll notice the seasons by the wildflowers—new species in bloom every 2-3 weeks during the spring and summer along every meadow, roadside, and riverbank.
<i>Wildlife</i>	Aside from the salmon, there are bears, foxes, osprey, bald eagles, heron, spotted owls, sturgeon, western toads, foothill yellow-legged frogs and beavers.
<i>Weather</i>	Mild winters—snow and rain. Temps: 20s-50s. The USFS barracks house is thermostat controlled and a swamp cooler is in the living room. Warm, mostly sunny springs: 60s-80s. Hot, dry summers 80s-100s with fairly active fire season. Fall is everyone's favorite season, with changing colors, sunny skies and milder temps.
<i>Native Culture</i>	The local Hoopa Tribe has been making great strides to maintain and revive their culture here, and are influential players in the management and research of the natural resources. Many of the local experts are tribal elders or ceremonial leaders, and they play strongly into the scientific and political action going on around here.



## **Housing and Local Resources**

### **Housing Contact List**

Currently housing is available for members in separate male and female houses/barracks. They are located in Salyer, CA and the rate is approximately \$6 per night. This works out to less the \$200 a month. A payment plan will have to be worked out.

### **Local Resource Contacts**



## **Community Information**

### **Map of Area**

### **Community Demographics**

Willow Creek is a rugged mountain community nestled in the heart of the Six Rivers National Forest.

Just a 45-minute drive inland is an escape from the fog and cool temperatures on the coast. But make sure you look out for Bigfoot. Located on the border of Humboldt and Trinity Counties. State Highways 299 and 96 are our access to the outside world. Willow Creek is a small community of 2,000 residents that was settled in the 1850s by pioneers in search of gold. At that time, the town was known as China Flat and served as a gold mining supply point.

More than 1 million acres of Six Rivers National Forest surround the town, and combined with the bright blue waters of the Trinity River, the area is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Willow Creek is a favored destination for rafters, hikers, birders and fishermen and draws visitors from far and wide every summer. The town is also a favorite summer-home destination for many coastal Humboldt County residents.

- From the Willow Creek Chamber of Commerce website



## **Community Services**

The town's China Flat Museum is a fun spot to visit and get a feel for the area's American Indian history and art, and offers an opportunity to step back in time with the pioneers and gold miners. Special events include an annual celebration of Bigfoot Days. Over Labor Day weekend, Bigfoot fans turn out hoping to catch a glimpse of their elusive furry friend.

The Willow Creek Golf and Country Club, a library, two banks, a park and campgrounds are just some of the services available in and around the town. Creekside Park is a shady toddlers playground and includes a playhouse, picnic area and disc golf course called "The Steelhead Course".

Wineries and farming are an up-and-coming industry for Willow Creek.

Recreationists are discovering that Willow Creek is centrally located for many outdoor sport activities. With four distinct seasons and temperate climates, they are surprised to find that this area receives very little snow. The rain, however, averages 50-70 inches per year.

-From the Willow Creek Chamber of Commerce website



## **Entertainment and Community Events**

### **Resources for Affordable Entertainment Options**

#### **Recurring Event List**

- *Big Foot Birding Days*
- *Fish Fair*
- *Fish Derby (Willow Creek)*
- *Fire Safe Days*
- *Smith River Dives*
- *Salmon River Dives*
- *BigFoot Days*

There are a lot of local events that occur in and around the communities from Weaverville which is one hour to the east and Arcata/Eureka which is 45 min. to one hour to the West. Arcata has lots of community events and is greatly influenced by the presence of Humboldt State University.



## **Helpful Hints**

**Title**

## **Attachments**

**Contact Lists**

**Ed Logs & Information**

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